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These reports of the Board of Missionary Preparation can without hesitation be recommended as affording a body of authoritative judgment, direction, and advice which no candidate or society or library interested in foreign service can afford to neglect.

D. J. F.

BROWN, ARTHUR J. *Unity and Missions: Can a Divided Church Save the World?* Chicago: Revell, 1915. 319 pages. \$1.50.

The subtitle is significant when we remember that there are 164 denominations in America and 183 in Great Britain. The problem is by no means easy even for those who are ready to make large concessions.

In thirteen chapters the author covers the whole ground, showing how the primitive unity was broken; how the present unfortunate situation arose; how denominational teachings are no longer distinctive, some assumptions that are misleading; how current objections to organic union no longer hold; and how partial knowledge is always dogmatic. He also discusses expedients for unity—such as alliances, federations, and territorial divisions; and shows how co-operative work is now practical in evangelism, education, medical work, and publications. Some organic unions have already been effected and others are pending. There is also a chapter on the Anglican proposals for union, and one on High Church Anglicans and American Presbyterians in Shantung University.

But perhaps the crux of the whole matter will be found in the chapter on: "The Accepted Essentials of Christianity." It is summarized as follows: "God our Creator sovereign and Father; Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of God our Saviour and Lord; the Holy Spirit; the transforming influence of God in human life; sin its guilt and ruin; repentance the first duty of man; salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ; service the inspiring duty of every believer; prayer through which we have access to God; fellowship with God in Christ; the Holy Catholic church, the body of Christ, composed of all those in every land who profess this faith and witness it to the world in worship and sacraments and the works of God for humanity."

J. W. M.

BENSON, LOUIS F. *The English Hymn, Its Development and Use in Worship.* New York: Doran, 1915. 624 pages. \$3.50.

Dr. Benson would have us remember, first of all, that the hymn is more than literature; it is liturgic verse, and as such belongs with the things of the spirit, in the special sphere of worship. His book is replete with just such fundamental deductions, with a restating of values, with the restoration of a proper perspective for hymnological study in the world of literature, church history, and liturgics.

The English Hymn is unquestionably the most valuable contribution to the history of hymns and the evolution of congregational song since the publication of Julian's *Dictionary of Hymnology*. In some respects Dr. Benson's work supersedes the *Dictionary*. It furnishes first sources, and considerable data hitherto inaccessible. It suggestively traces the history of the Christian church through three turbulent centuries and exhibits hymns as factors in these controversial times. Particularly admirable is the inspirational message which glows from every page, but which in no way detracts from the scholarly viewpoint. Indeed, the book is unique in this blending of judicial temper with quiet hortatory values.